WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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Theodore Roosevelt and the "Open Shop."

President ROOSEVELT has called a halt upon the pretensions of the labor agitators, and his action will be of incalculable benefit to the country. And not the least gainers by it will be labor itself, both union and non-union.

The leaders of organized labor demanded that a man should be dismissed from the service of the United States because he was a non-union man. President ROOSEVELT refused to comply, on the ground that he was sworn to administer the laws of the land, which were "enacted for the benefit of the whole people and which cannot and must not be construed as permitting discrimination against some of the people."

This is as sound as the Constitution of the United States. It will have the hearty approval of the public and none the less because it was widely feared that Mr. ROOSEVELT might act differently. THE SUN had little apprehension on the subject. It warned the labor agitators that they were in danger of waking up another Mr. ROOSEVELT than the one with whom they had established such excellent, if profoundly disturbing relations, and that when they did wake him up they would burn their fingers. This is what THE SUN said:

"The Mr. ROOSEVELT they have now to do with will dispense with the whole vote of organized labor and fill the jalls full of walking delegates be fore he will budge an inch. When he sees his duty clear before him he will stick to it, no matter wha It costs him, and no personal sacrifice will deter him or sway him for a moment."

Mr. ROOSEVELT ought to feel like a man who has cast off a grievous burden. His dalliance with the professional labor agitators had for its open and undisguised object the vote of labor in his coming campaign for the Presidency. He had every reason to believe that he had achieved his purpose. He had made no miscalculation, but the labor leaders had. They thought that Mr. Roosevelt was theirs, and that his great power, the power of the United States Government, was invocable at their pleasure and for their own ends. They were mistaken in their man. Now they know better, and a great part of the people of this country knows better,

Labor, that is, the professional, walking delegate form of it, now denounces Mr. ROOSEVELT and passes resolutions condemning him. Let us reflect a moment. Suppose that Mr. ROOSEVELT had complied with labor's demand and had dismissed the man from the public service because he was a non-union man. What would labor have thought of him then? It would have applauded him. True; but what would have been the real nature of its applause and how long would it have lasted? It will not do to forget that labor, the mass of it, is sound in the head, honest in the heart and, first of all things, American. This being true, how long would its laudation have lasted and what sort of ring would it have had-for the man who had done its bidding?

We need say no more; but we hold that the denunciations now destined for President ROOSEVELT will redound to his personal advantage and that the American public and all men who toil, be they union or non-union, will think none the less of him than they did before.

England and the Macedonian Ques-

tion. If anything can bring the Sultan to reason in his dealings with his Macedonian subjects and his Bulgarian vassal, it ought to be the notification which he and the Bulgarian Government have received that they will not be allowed to settle the differences between them either by war or negotiation.

A plainer hint that neither Turkey nor Bulgaria is any longer regarded as an independent factor, it would be impossible to give. It confirms the suspicions that have been entertained in so many quarters that the ultimate design of the European Powers is the settlement of the Near Eastern question by the partition of the Balkan country into spheres of control, Austria and Russia being the constituting Powers under a more or less-probably less-effective supervision by the others.

The surprising thing is that there should be a party in England so oblivious of the fact that the British Government by its concessions to Austria and Russia, and indirectly to Germany, is paying in kind for the abstention of the European Governments from intervention in the late Boer War, that it goes to the trouble of organizing demonstrations and holding meetings of protest against the Sultan's rule and the doings of his soldiers

Mr. JAMES BRYCE, who presided at the meeting in London on Tuesday, is no doubt entitled to urge more effective intervention by Great Britain, for he was among those who never ceased to protest against the policy of the present institutions exclusively for "the moral said "that they had thus far kept their.

Government in England in the war in South Africa; but he must know that any intervention by the British Government in Turkey at the present moment except with the support of other Governments ready to use force, would be futile, and as likely as not to hasten a crisis which every European Government s anxious to avert.

Mr. Balfour's lately published letter made it plain enough that he, at all events, meant to be no party to the upsetting of the present equilibrium in Turkey by force, now or in the future; and how to bring the Sultan to reason by any other method than force has yet to be discovered. It is doubtful whether even Mr. BRYCE, were he in Lord LANSpowne's place to-morrow, would propose any other than diplomatic means and pressure to right matters.

As to discussing reforms, and schemes, and plans for putting them in execution, the Sultan is ready to meet Great Britain and all Europe combined, and go on discussing till the crack of doom. Meantime the devastation of Macedonia and Thrace and the murder of their people

As at the time of the Armenian mas sacres, the good people in England are meeting and passing resolutions that will lead to nothing.

The Rev. Dr. Geer's Significant Letter. We print in an adjoining column a

notable, a very significant, letter from the Rev. Dr. GEER, the distinguished vicar of St. Paul's Chapel of the great Trinity parish of the Episcopal Church. It is an earnest and eloquent warning of the dangers to our society and our political institutions which he conceives to be involved in our system of public education conducted by the State.

Dr. GEER puts himself flatly on the ground held by the Roman Catholic Church as affording the only hope for the future of our republic and of our social organization—the ground that the only true and safe basis for education, either for the State or for the individual, is religion. He takes, too, the position of the hierarchy of that Church, that the school fund, or a great part of it, should be divided so as to provide support for religious schools conducted in accordance with the varying tenets and convictions of the religious believers who make up something like a quarter of the population, if the attempts at their enumeration are to be credited as authentic. For the remainder, described by Dr. GEER as agnostics, indifferentists and atheists, he would provide the purely secular education they desire.

This is a scheme which has been advocated generally by many of our correspondents, but almost wholly by Roman Catholics. It could not be introduced except by a constitutional amendment. the proposal of which would be likely to excite one of the bitterest political conflicts in American history. Dr. GEER'S discussion, therefore, may be said to be academic rather than of a practical or even a practicable question of politics. It is not even to be assumed that Roman Catholics would be united in the support of so radical a revolution of our American school system as it exists and has existed in the States generally, with the passionate support of many generations of Americans and as their proudest boast.

The argument of Dr. GEER proceeds on he assumption that "in a country like this, with a mixed population, it is not the right and not the duty nor the policy of the State to educate." In the full sense of the term "educate" that may be true; but the policy on which the public school system is based is that, for selfprotection, the State must give to the children to whom its government will be intrusted as citizens the instruction that is necessary to fit them for that responsibility. The more mixed the population, therefore, literate and illiterate and of diverse races and inheritance of political conceptions and prejudices, the more necessary is it that the State should exercise this function.

Never was this need so imperative as t is now, when this country is receiving the greatest accession of foreigners of an alien speech in its history. First of all. the children of these newcomers must be taught our language and something of our history to fit them for the prime duty and privilege of citizenship to which they will attain on their reaching manhood. The State has no right to interfere in the vexed problem of the religion they shall profess, but, for its own protection, it must give them elementary secular instruction sufficient to save it from the dangers of an illiterate electorate. That is the ground on which State support of public education is justifiable

and requisite. This function of the State, says Dr. GEER, requires only "the simplest, most elemental kind of an education for those children who would otherwise be neglected." He raises the question-well worth debate-whether education supported by public taxation ought to go further than the merely elementary instruction necessary to save the State from the perils of an ignorant and illiterate electorate. As to providing this instruction only for those whose education would be wholly neglected otherwise, may it not be said that already that is done by the public school? So long as children go to school the State exercises no compulsion as to the character of the schools they shall attend Many thousands of them in New York are pupils of the Roman Catholic parochial schools, of schools provided by the Jews, or are in private schools. The State offers no interference with religious education of any kind whatever and no

discouragement to it. Dr. GEER argues that our society, even our whole political system, is going to the devil, is becoming "paganized," because our children are growing up without religious education. Ought not the churches and synagogues, then, to make it their first duty to supply this omission? They must provide it, the Constitution directs, without support from the State; and is the burden of cost too heavy? How can it be too heavy if the obligation is to Gop? The churches are compelled to support their worship by free will contributions only, except so far as concerns the help they get from the State in their statutory exemption from taxation as

or mental improvement of men or women," or for religious, charitable and educational purposes; yet, enormous as is the aggregate cost of their maintenance, they flourish here more than in countries where State and Church are united.

The practical question, after all, so far as concerns religious education in the public schools, is as to the possibility of getting rid of this prohibition of the Constitution of New York, in principle similar to that of the States generally, and the expediency of raising an agitation for its excision:

"Article IX., section 4. Neither the State no any subdivision thereof shall use its property or credit or any public money, or authorize or permit either to be used, directly or indirectly, in aid or maintenance, other than for examination and inspection, of any school or institution of learning wholly or in part under the control or direction of any religious denomination, or in which any de nominational tenet or doctrine is taught."

As to the point made by Dr. GEER. that the absence of religious education is responsible for social and political evils from which we suffer grievously and that those evils would be prevented by such education, there is room for wide disagreement, as our own correspondence has demonstrated so conspicuously. Practically, are the graduates of religious schools better morally than the graduates of the public schools? Infidelity is widespread, undoubtedly, but is it not among those who received a religious education in as great a ratio as among those whose education was in the schools conducted under the prohibition of the Constitution we have quoted? This is a question which can only be answered by statistics which it is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

There is a tone in Dr. GEER's letter to which we object very decidedly, but his presentation of the question is able eloquent and sincere and is the expression of a truly and deeply religious mind.

Can Mr. Grout and Mr. Fornes Be

Ejected? The expressed disinclination of certain influential members of the Republican city committee to put the names of Comptroller EDWARD M. GROUT and President CHARLES V. FORNES of the Board of Aldermen on their ticket for reelection this fall is entirely sincere. At the same time it is difficult to see how those two Democrats can be prevented from running under the ballot-box emblem without a violation of the law.

The Republican city convention was held in accordance with the statute governing primaries enacted in 1899. Mr. GROUT and Mr. FORNES were nominated by the city convention, whose officers are charged with the duty of filing the certificates of nomination with the Board of Elections before midnight of Oct. 9. The law provides that each certificate must be accompanied by a sworn declaration that the statements contained therein are true. The Penal Code, in Section 419 provides that "misconduct in relation to certificates of nomination" shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than one and not more than five

vears. The nominations were made by the easting of one ballot for each nominee by the secretary of the convention, under authority of the convention, and not on roll calls. Whether nominations thus made are legal under the primar law, whose object was to give each delegation opportunity to be heard, is a question the courts have not passed on yet. It may be that in this procedure an excuse may be found to undo the work of the convention, and to recon-

vene it. Unless this is done, it seems that the certificate of Mr. GROUT's and Mr. FORNES'S nomination by the Republican city convention must be filed by the officers of the convention. If the officers fail to do so they may be liable to prosecution. Certainly the courts could issue an appropriate writ compelling them to file the certificates, on complaint of Mr. GROUT and Mr. FORNES that the officers of the convention were neglecting their duty.

Were it not for this power of the courts, the officers of the convention might file only the certificate of Mayor Low's nomnation. They might leave two places blank on the ballot, and instruct all the members of the party to vote under the Citizens' Union emblem for the city ticket, and under the ballot-box emblem for borough, county and other candidates. Such a solution, besides being clearly illegal, is also impracticable.

. The Citizens' Union does not nominate by convention, but by petition, and it has until Oct. 14 to file its nominating petitions. It may place any names on its petitions that it wishes to, and, on getting the signatures of 2,000 electors to each petition, its candidates will be entitled to a place on the ballot. The action of the Citizens' Union convention in 'nominating" Mr. Low, Mr. GROUT and Mr. Fernes had no legal effect, and was. in fact, only an instruction to the officers of the Union.

Mr. GROUT and Mr. FORNES are on the Republican ticket, and to get them off against their own wishes requires a very ingenious longitudinal dissection of hairs.

The Walking Delegates and the

Schools. The Board of Walking Delegates of Brooklyn and Queens boroughs has served notice on the Board of Education that unless the contractors at work on new school buildings and repairs in the Long Island divisions of New York city discharge the non-union men who are now employed by them, a strike will be called which will tie up all of the work now in progress. Should the threat of a strike be carried out, work will be stopped on seventeen new buildings which are needed urgently to relieve the crowded conditions in the existing school buildings, in which it is probable accommodation cannot be found for full-time instruction of 'some of the children of members of the unions represented in

the board of walking delegates. Under these conditions, the reasons that have impelled the walking delegates to call a strike are interesting. In their ultimatum to the superintendent of school buildings the walking delegates

hands off the school work in Brooklyn but as it had been intimated to them that public opinion was so strong that it would not admit of any interference with schools, it was practically imperative upon them to show that their unions stood together."

It is well always at the beginning of such a controversy to have the cause of

it set forth exactly. If there is a strike on the public school buildings of Brooklyn and Queens it will not be to obtain more wages, shorter hours, or greater privileges for the workers. Its sole object will be to demonstrate the power and strength of the board of walking delegates.

Unanimity for Good Candidates. Let us suppose that the yearning of Mr. CHARLES F. MURPHY for good municipal government led him one step further. that is, to the indorsement of Mr. Low

along with Mr. GROUT and Mr. FORNES. Is it said that this is impossible, Tammany being a Democratic organization

and Mr. Low being a Republican? Well, it has been said at times that

Mr. Low was no Republican. We invite the supposition, not because any such thing is likely to occur, but because it may serve to throw light on the question of moral propriety or moral turpitude.

Why, on Sept. 25, 1901, the Citizens' Union nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court the Hon. MORGAN J. O'BRIEN. On Oct. 1, 1901, the Republican County Convention nominated the same candidate. Did Tammany blight and disqualify Judge O'BRIEN when it put him on its ticket nine days later?

If amending the New Jersey Constitution is in order, what about an amendment which shall permit the enactment of a school law that classifies districts according to the

needs of a modern school system? Two such general school laws have been leclared unconstitutional within four years f we are not mistaken.

The opening of the football season has nspired scaptical comments to the effect that the new rules designed to abolish heavy mass plays, or at least to confine them to the last twenty-five yards of the advance, have not altered the nature of the game. The season is young yet and the leading teams have not met in fierce conflict. The lists of casualties at the end of the series will tell the tale.

Conference, Interview, or Audience?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Referring to my communication of Sept. 23, regarding the matter of a "conference" between the President and representatives of organized labor in the matter of the Miller case, I would respectfully ask your interpretation of the meeting at the White House on the evening of Sept. 29. Was it a "conference

I have reviewed with care a number of news paper accounts of the incident. I note that all refer to it as a "conference." They report that the "conference" lasted from P. M. to 11:30 P. M. For a concrete illustration I quote the report given in the Tribune of Sept. 30. That paper states that "the conference at the White House broke up about 11:30 P. M." It further refers to an "interview" at which various subjects of interest to labor were "discussed." Three times more the word "conference" appears, the word "interview" once more, and ussion" once.

In Mr. Gompers's letter to the President asking for an "interview," he refers to the "controversy," presumably alluding to the difference between the President and the unions. He also coolly requests the Presiconvenience of the engagements of Mr. John Mitchell. In the statement given by Mr. Gompers to the members of the press, that gentleman twice uses the word "conference, and also states that the Miller case was "discussed" in all of its bearings. I am at no little loss to understand whether the President has merely given a "hearing," or whether he has held a "conference," with a prolonged "discussion" of a "controversy" between himself and labor unionism.

I also note that the President, in his open ing communication to the delegates, confined himself with great care to the issue of the "open shop" in its relation to Governmen establishments. Of course he was entirely right in so doing. It was the only issue which he was directly and officially concerned. His letter of July 14, to Secre tary Cortelyou, took a much broader groundthat of the underlying principle in its relation to all establishments, public or private. have raised the point so broadly in a "hearing" or a "conference" would have been futile, of course, and perhaps impolitic. The real issue at stake is undoubtedly the right of Mr. Miller to hold his job. So far as Mr. Roosevelt is concerned, that question nov appears to be closed. Miller stays. The only question which remains is the nature of the meeting at the White House between Mr. Roosevelt and Messrs. Gompers, Mitchell & Co.; and upon that question, I ask to be A WELL WISHER.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.

Suppose we call it an audience More Theatre Reminiscences

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Who can forget the old Olympia, with Miss Mary Gannon sharing the honors with Miss Mary

Taylor-Mitchell and Holland as Mr. and Mr. Caudle in the "Curtain Lectures," and the operatic burlesques such as the "Bohea Man's Girl;" and after the performance, the visit to the old oyster house on Broadway and Howard street, and a big oyster stew for a York shilling? As to the Old Bowery, Philomel is right

T. Hamblin was manager, and brought out Mrs. Shaw, J. R. Scott, E. L. Davenport.
The latter sang and danced a sailor's hornpipe in "Black-Eyed Susan." Who would
have thought at that time that he would
become the great tragedian he did in after
ware?

years?

Does any of your old readers recollect the old cry in the Bowery pit, when a colored man or boy would get in? The cry was immediately raised: "Nigger in the pit; put him out!" The colored person was seized by half a dozen or more, tossed over the heads of those in the rear, and thrown out in the rear possageway.

rear passageway.

Are there any of your old readers who remember that in winding up balls or dancing parties on the West Side we used to sing: I danced with a girl with a hole in her stocking, hole in her stocking, a hole in her stocking; I danced with a girl with a hole in her stocking—She was the handsomest girl in the room.

Those were the days when young men horoughly enjoyed life, and lived up to the

Go it while you're young. For when you're old you can't; Drive all sad thoughts away, And bid dull care avaunt!

W. H. HOOPER.

A Twenty-Third Street Experience. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Weeks ago new curbstones were laid along both sidswalks of Twenty-third street. They have been there ever since, untouched and collecting dirt, and are in

everybody's way.

Now, the bill posters have begun to plaster them up with posters. If some one connected with the city government would only start at Sixth avenue and go west along Twenty-third street and see how detestable it looks and see what a forlorn, untidy and ramshackle appearance it gives to an otherwis nice street, I certainly think the city would have the stones cleaned and would stop it for the future. NEW YORK, Sept. 28.

By inadvertence, the other day, we attributed to the Outlook an article on the New Theology, by Prof. George F. Moore of the Harvard divinity school, which was printed in the Independent.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

e Rev. Dr. W. Montague Geer of St Paul's Chapel Argues that Our Public School System Is a Pert to Our Society TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There

is nothing so topsy-turvy in the countr to-day as our treatment of the subject of education; yet there is nothing so vital to the safety and perpetuity of our institutions. And the cause is not far to seek.

In a country like this, with a mixed population, it is not the right and not the duty nor the policy of the State to educate. The State is too big and unwieldy an organization to do such delicate work. To allow the State to carry on this kind of ethical and spiritual warfare is as absurd as to intrust to the Church the duty of managing a military campaign against a foreign foe. It is simply a question of adaptability and equipment. The well meant usurping of maternal functions by the State reminds one of the tender hearted, motherly elephant that undertook to hatch out the eggs of a disabled hen.

What is the result of our malpractice? Why, we are bringing up all over this broad land a lusty set of young pagans, who, sooner or later, they or their children, will make havoc of our institutions. Lynchors, labor agitators and law breakers generally are human guide posts, with arms, hands and fingers wide extended and voices at their loudest, pointing us to the ruin which awaits society if we persevere in the road which we are now taking.

Foreign war would make a unit of as brave, as resourceful a people as ever knew existence; but let severe pressure come from within, and we shall see, to our silly surprise, how little the average American cares for his country as a sacred, God made institution. Pagans, under the best ethical training of old time paganism, might be made, even in this Christian era to do good work for society; but may we be delivered from the handiwork of pagans in a Christian country who know little or nothing either of pagan ethics and pagan religion or of Christian ethics and Christian religion. Such as these are already proving a perilous element. The wealth and extent of the country may put off for a time our evil day, at its worst estate; but if we continue to forge ahead into the darkness at the rate at which we are now moving that evil day may be much nearer than we think. A rolling ball makes history fastest when it is nearest the bottom of the hill, and we are making history at a tremendous pace.

The writer has been surprised in conversation with intelligent and thoughtful men to find a marked want of confidence in the permanent success of our institutions. Like him, these doubters seem to be "peering into the night, questioning of the darkness what is sea and what is land." And the best they dare hope for is that, after a cataclysm, there will follow some sort of rehabilitation of our institutions on firmer foundations; that we will be saved, yet so as by fire.

Our perils are not old-country perils, but they are just as real; yet we seem to know nothing about them. We are building costly educational breakwaters against storms coming from one direction only. Our national harbor of safety promises, therefore, to be like that of Apia in the famous storm of a few years ago, a harbor in stress of weather to be sailed out from. Dropping metaphor, our moneyed classes, in the not remote future, may be tempted to place their money over the border in Canadian banks, as some of them are said to have done when Bryanism was most threatening.

We have problems of appalling magni tude before us, and our preparation is wholly insufficient in character. We need powers of assimilation such as no other country ever needed; yet we are making ready for a solution of our difficulties with a sort of spiritual dyspepsia. Nothing ever was so haphazard, happy-go-lucky as our well meant national system of education. It is openly and, I believe, justly charged that this city, for fifty or sixty years past, through its schools, has been corrupting the immigrants, not the immigrants th city; and the same might be said with equal truth of the country at large. What crass mismanagement! What fatal blundering!

We pride ourselves on our successful

separation of Church and State: but the such separation is possible as long as the State has almost a monopoly in educating the children. The truth is, we have an established religion, for the support of which the people are heavily taxed. endowed established religion (so to call it is that of agnosticism, running down into atheism. Is not the same true of religion n those families in which the father mother never speak on the subject to the chil dren? And if things are wrong in the nurs-ery, what need is there to look elsewhere? Protestants, Roman Catholics and He-

brews have struck a compromise by which ethics at their best-are eliminated from the education of the child life of the nation What is the result? Why, surely, the virtual nthronement of forces that disbelieve in Christ and are antagonistic to God and How can those who know what Christianity is and what the nature and needs of children are believe otherwise: There can be no education in these days without religion, or its negation or opposi What an atmosphere to bring up our chil-dren in! Small wonder that atheists and agnostics love to have it so; because in a pitiful sense of the word the lamb is

Rome allowed each conquered nation to retain its own religion, and even placed their gods in her Pantheon; and all were contented, or at least gratefully accepted the wisely offered consolation. But we are dishonoring every form of religion known to our people by our colossal and well meant to our people by our colossal and well mean but wholly stupid meddling with the nur ery of the nation. And the inevitable result which is becoming more and more evident is that no one is satisfied. Witness th want of confidence so abundantly attested in the many letters which have recently appeared in your columns and, from time to time, in other newspapers and periodi-cals. The schools are overcrowded and very popular, of course; but these facts are of little weight for the purposes of this and similar protests.

e over educating our people, un fitting them for what they can do, and no offering them the opportunities for which offering them the opportunities for which we are fitting them. What deplorable folly! Small wonder again that farms are being deserted, farm laborers becoming harder and harder to get, cities and larger towns becoming more and more overcrowded and the strife and distrust between capital and labor becoming apparently hopeless and endless—all to the great read of the body politic!

ently hopeless and encless—all to the great peril of the body politic!

What, then, is the right, the duty and the policy of the State in this virally important matter? The situation calls loudly for an answer, which is easily given, hard, indeed, though it be to put it into practice. The State, for its own protection, is to see that the children are educated, and coly to take action, where it is necessary only to take action where it is necessar to do so, by providing the simplest, mos elementary kind of an education for thos hildren who would otherwise be neglected If private enterprise carries education further than this, it will be on so small a scale, comparatively, that no serious harm is likely to be done.

In this way an open field and no favor would be given to every religious body to provide proper education for its own chilprovide proper education for its own children or take the consequences of its neglect of duty. Private schools, large and small, differing widely in dogmatic teaching, but identical in ethics and patriotism, would again spring up and multiply all over the land, and education would again be on a proper and safe basis. The children, or most of them, would be Christianized as well as Americanized. Pagans night be instructed in pagan ethics: Jews would be structed in pagan ethics; Jews would be instructed in Jewish ethics; Protestants

and Roman Catholics in Christian ethics. Every religious body would provide for the education of its own children; and the ex-ceptions to this salutary rule would see their children State educated and made thereby the easy prey of some stronger form of re-ligion, or the victim of agnosticism, indif-ferentism or atheism and consequent im-morality.

rerentism or atheism and consequent informality.

This means division in part, at least, of the school moneys, and troublesome enough it is likely to prove; but it is Sailors' Snug Harbor in comparison with the stormy seas, which we are now steering the ship of State for.

The introduction of religion into State schools in any form commensurate with

The introduction of religion into State schools in any form commensurate with the needs of the children is out of the question. Herein lies the hopelessness of the present situation; and the sconer this point is understood and conceded by all parties interested the sconer this most important of all subjects before Church and State today can be argued to a finish. No Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jew, agnostic or atheist is willing to be taxed to help some one else choose the religion which shall be taught his child. According to our theory of government, and we might say in the of government, and we might say in the sight of God and men, this would not be fair; and, therefore, it cannot, and will not,

Here is the opportunity for Protestants of all kinds to cry aloud, "This would be playing into the hands of the Roman Catholics. It is what they have been demanding and working for, for many years pest." Granted, but it would not be playing into their hands nearly as much as we are now their hands nearly as much as we are now doing by allowing them a substantial monopoly of the whole field of Christien education, and of all the blessings which are sure to flow from the noble self-sacrifice they are making rather than wantonly expose their children to the inroads of unbelief. If the writer is not greatly mistaken, unless our affairs take a turn for the better in the sight of Him whose parting commission to His Church was "Feed my lambs!" (evidently the proper place for the lamb is not inside the lion, after all), for the rehabilitation of our institutions, we will be flying, as frightened doves to the windows, to the Roman Catholic Church as the greatest power which, in troublous days, will stand for law and order and for the highest morality.

It was the Rev. Dr. A. A. Hodge, a celebrated Presbyterian divine and educator of Princeton Theological Seminary, who used these none too strong words in an article certified. "Religion in the Public entitled." Religion in the Public entitled." Religion in the Public entitled."

used these none too strong words in ar article entitled "Religion in the Public

Under these problems there lurks the most tre-mendous and most imminent danger to which the interests of our people will ever be exposed, in com-parison with which the issues of slavery and of in-temperance shrink into insignificance.

And, for a Presbyterian divine, he is certainly bold to say that: In view of the entire situation, shall we not all of us who really believe in God, give thanks to Him that He has preserved the Roman Catholic Church in America to-day true to that theory of education upon which our fathers founded the public schools of this nation. and from which they

public schools of this nation, a have been so madly perverted? In common, doubtless, with many others who want the children of this country to receive good American fair play, be the creed of their parents what it may, I should be glad to see at least the attempt made to argue this question to a finish by the highest authorities on the various different sides authorities on the various different sides, and in The Sun newspaper, which has of late shown so much interest in the subject.

W. Montague Gren,
View of St. Bowle Gren,

Vicar of St. Paul's Chapel. NEW YORK, Sept. 29.

Needs of the Coast Artillery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: annual report of the commander of the De partment of the East, Major-Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, calls attention to the duties impos upon the coast artillery in the department. These duties, he says, "are very enormou now, so great, indeed, as to require that attention be invited to the necessity of an increas in its strength as a measure of relief and to meet fairly new development of defence made year by year. At present less than 10,000 men are available in this department, while over 15,000 are required to constitute one relief."

The General Staff, it is understood, is considering the advisability of increasing the strength of the coast artillery companies from 109 enlisted men to 13e; but, while this will be an improvement, it will not meet the

from 109 enissed men will be an improvement, it will not meet the question fully. Many of the companies are now short of officers—due in part to the fuct that the officers necessarily detailed away from their companies are greater in number than the number allowed on the unassigned list—so that companies have only one officer where three are supposed to be present Consequently, the relief will not be com lete, or even satisfactory, unless the num-

ber of officers is also increased.

This increase is absolutely essential at the present moment, in order to have the expensive armament already installed properly present moment, in order to have the expensive armament already installed properly cared for: "and as more fortifications are being completed year after year, the demand becomes constantly greater." The coast artillery troops have been inadequate in number for a year or two, and within that time the new fortifications completed have practically doubled the armament in most of the artillery districts, so that in a very short time the coast artillery will be compelled to devote all its time and attention merely to keeping the material in serviceable condition and will have no time or men to spare for proper training.

and will have no time of men to spate for proper training.

In regard to the new uniform, the department commander believes that it gives general satisfaction; but he very properly objects to the straps on the bottom of the dress trousers as "serving no useful or ornamental purpose," and considers two full dress hats and shoulder ornaments for general officers use-

shoulder ornaments for general officers useless.

The new militia law has already had its
effect on the State troops. The reports of the
officers making the inspection of the National
Guard "indicate that in the important items
of discipline, mobilization and target practice the National Guard shows commendable
progress, that the Government supervision
to the extent defined by law will produce beneficial results and that within the time fixed
(five years from the date of the approval of
the act) the organization and armament of
the national Guard will conform to the
regular and Volunteer armies of the United
States. Under the stimulus of the law and
these inspections there has been hearty cooperation between the National Guard and
the Regular army in this department."

FORT PREBLE, Sept. 28.

ARTILLERY.

Sim Parks as Boss.

From the New Haven Evening Register As for the results of Parks and Parksism the next few months will tell. Its first result has been to put an end to building operations is Manhattan. This means the idleness of millions of dollars, an untold amount of actua misery and the danger of lawlessness bred by biting want. more. It is not possible for this to happer without its effect being imposed upon trade everywhere. To have partial idleness thus forced in the iron and steel business and those producing trades which compete for furnishings is to cripple general confidence and bring about stagnation. From just such small beginnings big periods of depression But what is to be especially feared by those upon whom such a misfortune would fall with its heaviest weight, and who have the power to avert it if they gather the cour age to throw over Parks and Parksism, is the possibility of allied capital determining to meet the question now and fight it out to finish-not gayly and in a spirit of entertain ment, but reluctantly and in a spirit of neces sity. That is the present danger which threatens the world of commerce to-day Wall Street is already passing through its season of liquidation and great fortunes are being reduced thereby. It would be most unfortunate if organized labor should forced through a season of like liquidation as a result of Sam Parks and his brutal philsophy. Now is the time for those who possess the power to avert a storm to use it. It be too late in another six months

The Legs of Michigan TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Up in Grand Rapids I saw a delivery wagon the other day with

PANTATORIUM AND BUIT PRESSING CLUB Ladles' Work a Specialty.

painted on its side

Sr. Louis, Sept. 28. Feet. me sing the dainty little foot

That boasts a Spanish arch. and in the ballroom captures hearts. The while it leads the march.

But here's in praise of that which wear A number thirteen sole; That kicks the football high in air

And lands it at the goal.

GRIDLEY ADAMS

THE LOCAL SITUATION.

Varying Views of the Facts and of Duties of Good Citizenship. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: From the recent political developments it seems to me that the issue of the campaign, to date, is not Fusion vs. Tammany but Craft vs. Graft. Let us get together, press graft and craft to

higher principles.

Mr. Jerome's denunciation of such duplicity as has been shown by different candidates expresses my sentiments to the letter, and I pledge him not only my vote for a more substantial platform, but my hearty support to crush the stigma that would rest upon New

York city in the event of the election of such ukewarm, crafty and grafty executives. That candidates for good government, for clean, honest municipality, can join with upholders of Tammany and her disreputable administrators without contaminating their

good purposes, is impossible. You can't mix with dirt without getting dirty The worthy citizens of this, the greatest city of the United States, are seeking to establish principles of honesty and righteousness in its government; and this desire can be consummated only by electing officials who

will faithfully observe such principles. Again I say, I give my heart and hand to the vote for a platform of builders of the reform under Mr. Low, not of officeseekers. NEW YORK, Sept. 30.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The attitude assumed by Comptroller Grout in offering to accept the Democratic nomination for Comptroller is without doubt the most inconsistent, and I must say the most remarkable position that a gentleman can take in public life, especially in view of the words of the Comptroller's letter in accepting the fusion ation for Comptroller, wherein he stated that in municipal affairs the question of political parties was entirely eliminated, and the Republican and Democratic parties were not to be considered as factors in the municipal

and State elections. Knowing Mr. Grout to be an able lawyer. respectfully call his attention to the decisions in the case of People vs. Gleason (13 Mis, 511; Matter of Mitchell, 81 Hun. 401) in which

election, basing his distinction on national

Court stated: The reference to parties is all the time to State parties. The State party is made up of local secsegments, being local organizations, all connected with the State party organization; unity of notitical faith in State politics is not enough; actual unity in State party is essential. Without the latter, the local organization, however numerous,

It must be conceded by every one that Tammany Hall is the Democratic party in It affiliates with the State Demoeratic organization, adopts the star, the Democratic party's emblem, and sends its delegates to State conventions as well as national. So, you can see that Mr. Grout is inconsistent with his letter of acceptance

of the fusion nomination. I have appeared before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment many times, and Mr. Grout has without exception been of all others in the board the champion of municipal reform. How he expects, if elected on the Tammany ticket, to assert his independence as heretofore, is beyond my comprehension. His attitude reminds me of that of Bacon to his friend, the Duke of Essex. After accepting the munificence of the Duke, Bacon proceeded at the request of the Queen to prosecute in the House of Lords his benefactor; but instead of prosecuting he persecuted him, and after the Duke's execution he was requested to write his epitaph, and

in doing so he defamed his character. Mr. Grout in accepting the Tammany nomination betrays the Mayor, who, only Democrats will concede, is a fair political opponent. It has come to the question whether the political machines, at the behest of their leaders, shall make up the slate and put t before the conventions and thereby secure

snap nominations. As the honesty of the ballot in the city of New York to-day is beyond question, the only solution I can see in the future is that nominations for office in the respe parties shall be made by the votes of the citizens, that is to say, by primaries. Then every candidate who is voted for in the primaries, and who receives the majority of votes, is the rightful and legal candidate of that party; and on a general election the question of political faith and the policies of the respective parties and their candidates ar placed squarely before the people, and are approved or rejected according to the will LOUIS A. CUVILLIFE.

of the voters. NEW YORK, Sept. 29. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Does it not seem that the horror of Platt, Bruce and other patriots at the idea of Tammany's indorsing Grout and Fornes betrays more solicitude for the prestige of "our side" than for the continued good government of this

Fusion nominated these men two years ago, and by renominating them it asserted that they have performed their functions honestly and well. All fusionists then who have decent municipal government really nearest their hearts will rejoice at any support, from whatsoever source, that will insure the continuance in office of these two eminently

Did John Cunneen refuse the indorsement of the Prohibitionists last fall? If he had, indeed, he would not now be gracing the Attorney General's office at Albany. Is he now sorry that he did not refuse this indorsement? Are his friends, his party, sorry? G.P. AGNEW NEW YORK, Sept. 29.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ser: The names of Grout and Fornes should be withdrawn from the fusion slate without delay. It is to regretted that the Mayor tried to persuade them to change their course. The very fact that they even entertained the esition to accept the nomination from Tammany proves that they are political fakirs who joined the fusion movement for

their own aggrandizement. leaders of the anti-Tammany Democrats have nearly all turned out to be insincere. Now we have two who are willing to fight on both sides of the conflict! Is it not time that the people began to

realize that the theory of non-partisanship is a failure? A city can be run on party lines just as well as the State or the nation. It has now been proven that a city cannot be divorced from State and national politics. What is the difference between a city administration and a State or national adminis-

tration? We are told that city issues are business issues. So are some of the State and national issues. For instance, is not the tariff question a question of dollars and cents? In the State we have the canal project, a business proposition. On the other hand there are issues in the city administration which are not business propositions. like the school question, charities, &c. A city can be administered by a party on business principles just as the State and the nation.

I have always held that the Republican party should run a straight ticket in this town. "But," we are told, "the Republican party isn't strong enough." It never will be strong enough so long as 35,000 Tammanyites are allowed to remain in office. And aye, there's the rub! The enemy intrenched in our camp ready to work and vote against us, while in our own ranks there are dissutts faction and indifference.

We are told that the Mayor's hands are tied by the Civil Service law. As an excuse for not enforcing the Excise law the Mayor stated that "the extreme of the law is the extreme of injustice." Cannot this same argument be applied to the Civil Service

I predict that unless Mayor Low pleases himself to have the Civil Service law modified and the army of Tammany officeholders removed, he cannot be elected; and I know whereof I affirm, having been a Republican election district captain for the past fifteen years. George Fentalox.

NEW YORK, Sept. 29. Divorce to Be Discussed in the Next Message.

From a Washington despatch to the Newark Evening The President will take up the surject of diverce, it is said, and will recommend the Congress pro-vide means for making an explaning inquiry-intottheedivenoguestiem.